

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00705 301639Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01  
HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00  
CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 COME-00 EB-08  
LAB-04 SIL-01 PER-01 /117 W

-----090054 301658Z /45

O 301604Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9763

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLEET

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0705

BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR LABATT

CINCUSNAVEUR AND EUCOM ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, TS

SUBJ: GENERAL STRIKE AND AFTERMATH--ACHOUR ARRESTED AS  
CALM IS RESTORED

REF: TUNIS 680 (DTG: 281049Z JAN 78)

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1. GOT ANNOUNCED SUNDAY EVENING THT HABIB ACHOUR WAS  
ARRESTED AT HIS RESIDENCE IN EL MENZA SUBURB OF TUNIS  
SATURDAY EVENING. CHARGES WERE NOT GIVEN, BUT GOVERNMENT-  
CONTROLLED PRESS AND TV HAVE EMPHASIZED DISCOVERY OF PRE-  
MEDITATED PLOT AGAINST REGIME ORGANIZED BY UGTT LEADER-  
SHIP. GOVERNMENT SOURCES CITE DISCOVERY OF CACHE OF  
ARMS IN UGTT HEADQUARTERS IN SFAX. TUNISIAN TV HAS

SHOWN LARGE ARSENAL OF STONES, CLUBS, METAL SPEARS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. SIMILAR CACHE ALSO SAID TO HAVE BEEN SEIZED AT UGTT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TUNIS. HAND GUNS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS REPORTEDLY ALSO PRESENT, BUT EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM THIS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS GROWING NUMBER OF RESIGNATIONS BY UGTT OFFICIALS IN PROTEST AGAINST POLCOCIES OF UGTT LEADERSHIP AND CALLS FOR HOLDING OF EXTRAORDINARY UGTT CONGRESS FOR ELECTION OF NEW LEADERSHIP.

2. LOCAL SITUATION REMAINS QUIET, WITH ARMY AND POLICE STILL VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE. CURFEW IN TUNIS REMAINS IN EFFECT BUT NOW ONLY FROM 8 P.M. TO 4 A.M. GOVERNMENT HAS EMPHASIZED THAT "STATE OF EMERGENCY" DECLARED BY PRESIDENT JAN. 26 IS NOT "STATE OF SIEGE" AND THT CIVIL AUTHORITIES REMAIN IN FULL CONTROL WITH NO POWERS HAVING BEEN CEDED TO MILITARY.

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FOR MEMBERS OF FOREIGN PRESS FRIDAY, NOUIRA DESCRIBED HOW ARMY WAS CALLED IN THURSDAY MORNING WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR POLICE COULD NOT CONTROL "INSURRECTION" WHICH PRODUCED CLASHES BETWEEN STRIKING AND NON-STRIKING WORKERS. HE ADDED THAT UDICIAL INQUIRY INTO WHOLE AFFAIR HAS BEEN OPENED, WHICH IN HIS VIEW WAS "PREMEDITATED." PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TUESDAY MORNING.

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4. ACCORDING TO CONFIDANT OF AHMED MESTIRI, BOURGUIBA IS AGAIN ILL AND UNDER CARE OF HIS DOCTORS, WHO HAVE FLOWN DOWN FROM SWITZERLAND. AT LEAST THIS WAS EXPLANATION TO OPPOSITION LEADER FOR WHY MESTIRI COULD NOT SEE PRESIDENT.

5. THERE AE RUMORS THAT TRANSPORATION SECTOR WILL GO OUT ON STRIKE TUESDAY. HOWEVER0 PRESIDENTIAL DECREES OF JANUARY 26 ESTABLISHING "STATE OF EMERGENCY" AND CURFEW PROHIBIT ANY MEETING IN PUBLIC OF MORE THAN THREE PERSONS. ALL MARCHES, PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SIMILARLY BANNED, AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZE STRIKE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, GENERAL STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TUNIS00705  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780044-0541  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TUNIS 680  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3769462  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL STRIKE AND AFTERMATH--ACHOUR ARRESTED AS CALM IS RESTORED  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PGOV, PINT, TS, (ACHOUR, HABIB)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cd9263e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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